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SUBJECT Poland Charges Colonel Meyer as a spy

TOM BROKAW: Colonel Frederick Meyer an American spy? Poland charged today that he is. It ordered the U.S. military attache and his wife out of Poland within 48 hours. From the United States, there were denials of the charges of spying.

But as Stan Bernard reports tonight, the U.S. did protest what it called Poland's outrageous treatment of the Meyers.

STAN BERNARD: The Polish government's chief spokesman said the American diplomat and his wife were caught red-handed in the act of spying. Polish TV showed the car in which Colonel and Mrs. Frederick Meyer were arrested last Thursday. It did not have diplomatic plates. The Polish government photo is not very clear, but it appears to be Mrs. Meyer in the car. There were also pictures of confiscated camera equipment and film, which the Polish government said had one frame showing military antennas.

Jerzy Urban told assembled journalists Colonel Meyer and his wife were observed acting suspiciously and taking pictures from their car in a prohibited military zone about 40 miles north of Warsaw, and they had taken deliberate steps to conceal their activities.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said it was particularly outrageous the way they were arrested. There had been earlier charges that Mrs. Meyer had been strip-searched.

BERNARD KALB: The manner in which the involved two U.S. citizens were handled by Polish security officers was particularly outrageous. Now, that comment of mine is a reference not to expulsion. I'm dealing there with the arrest and the way they

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were treated at that particular time.

BERNARD: The incident is a further setback for already-chilly Polish-American relations. A tentative step was underway to ease that chill with a meeting in Washington this week on technical and scientific cooperation. The United States has cancelled that meeting in protest over the arrest and the expulsion of the Meyers.

BROKAW: And in Washington tonight, the State Department announced that it now is expelling the Polish defense attache from this country. He and his wife must leave the United States within 48 hours.